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**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, May 21, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business.

EAC members present –D. Beane, A. Molteni, C. Curran-Myers

Others present – S. Katzenmoyer

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Beane called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**FLUORIDE IN DRINKING WATER**

Mr. Beane explained the background of this issue to Ms. Curran-Myers.

Mr. Molteni explained the research he has done on the issue and the problem he has found in people opposed to the addition of fluoride to drinking water in speaking publicly.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that this is an old issue. She stated that it was last addressed in the 1980's and that she helped to draft the Clean Drinking Water legislation. She stated that there is much evidence in favor of adding fluoride to drinking water. The current DEP policy is to allow municipalities to add it to their water if they do not yet do so but that it is very difficult to remove it if the municipality already adds it.

Mr. Molteni noted the difference between administration and science. He stated that sponsors of research often request the changing of data to support their position.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that still has many contacts at DEP and will follow up with them.

Ms. Hoag arrived at this time.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer arrived at this time.

### **MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer, seconded by Mr. Molteni, to approve the April 30, 2013 meeting summary as written. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **FLOURIDE IN DRINKING WATER (Continued)**

Mr. Molteni stated that he was unable to schedule speakers for this meeting. He noted his hope that the conversation continue and that speakers can be arranged at a summer meeting.

Ms. Katzenmoyer was requested to email the fluoride information to Ms. Curran-Myers for her review.

Kate Keppen from the Berks County Conservation District arrived at this time.

Mr. Beane noted his hope that this topic can conclude by the end of the summer.

Mr. Molteni noted the need to remove fluoride from the drinking water for general safety.

### **RAIN BARREL EDUCATION**

Ms. Keppen apologized for being late to the meeting. She explained that she was at another meeting at RHS about Trout in the Classroom and the installation of rain barrels. She stated that students made pots and added plants for a fundraiser for a field trip.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned if the pots were made by Ecology Club or by art students. Ms. Keppen stated that it was both as they worked together.

Ms. Keppen stated that the curriculum of Trout in the Classroom is very intense and is great for learning about the local watershed. She stated that it has been found that water from rain barrels is better suited for the trout as they are raised in aquariums. She stated that after they have grown large enough they are released into local water sources.

Mr. Beane updated Ms. Curran-Myers on the EAC's work on rain barrel regulations and noted the educational component. He explained that Ms. Keppen is helping with the first workshop which will be held on Saturday, June 8 at Albright's garden.

Ms. Keppen stated that her presentation is complete and she will email the power point slides for the EAC's review.

Mr. Molteni questioned how low income residents could get a rain barrel. Ms. Keppen stated that City residents attending the June 8 workshop will be entered into a raffle for a free rain barrel. She stated that the Conservation District does not have a program for low income residents and stated that the rain barrels they sell cost \$75. They will be available for sale at the workshop.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned how many rain barrels would be available for sale. Ms. Keppen stated that five will be for sale and one will be raffled.

Ms. Hoag suggested that RAWA be approached to sponsor rain barrels for low income residents. She stated that she will follow up with them on this issue.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer noted the need to follow up with RAWA with the number of attendees for refreshments.

Ms. Keppen stated that RAWA has 30+ barrels available for conversion. Ms. Hoag suggested that RAWA use these barrels and donate the conversion kits. Ms. Keppen stated that she will follow up with RAWA on this issue.

Mr. Beane explained that there will be several workshops held at different locations throughout the City.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that she will be following up with Dr. Jennings about chairs for the event and the fee for set up.

Mr. Beane suggested that the workshop be a total of 45 minutes. Ms. Curran-Myers agreed. She stated that the visual of seeing Albright's garden may spur extra questions.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer suggested creating a drawing of the specs for rain barrels as a take home for all attendees.

Mr. Beane suggested that there also be copies of the legislation available for attendees.

Ms. Keppen stated that her prep is complete.

Mr. Molteni stated that the latest report from USGS states that in some states rain barrels are barred as the State owns the rain.

Ms. Katzenmoyer will follow up with RAWA on the number of attendees after the RSVP deadline.

### **ALTERNATIVE ENERGY ORDINANCE**

Mr. Beane stated that he has not removed the repeated information.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that Mr. Lloyd from the Mayor's office has suggested that this ordinance be abandoned and replaced with separate regulations for each type of alternative energy. The EAC disagreed with this approach and will continue as planned.

Mr. Beane explained to Ms. Curran-Myers the EAC's work on addressing the City's codes to make them friendlier for alternative energy options. Ms. Katzenmoyer was requested to email the draft to Ms. Curran-Myers for her review.

Ms. Curran-Myers questioned if her comments were welcome. Mr. Beane stated that they were and requested that she track her changes on the document.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned if she should request a review of the ordinance by the County Planning Office. Mr. Beane stated that Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer may discuss the issue with them but that the regulations are not yet ready to be reviewed.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that Mr. Lloyd also hoped not to amend the Zoning Ordinance with these regulations. It was suggested that a chart explaining the setback requirements for all zoning districts be included. Another suggestion was that the zoning ordinance be referenced throughout.

Mr. Beane stated that the regulations would apply to residential and light industrial areas only. *(Note: the City's zoning districts do not include light industrial.*

*Instead it includes Commercial Residential, Commercial Core, Commercial Neighborhood, Commercial Highway, Manufacturing Commercial and Heavy Manufacturing.)*

Ms. Katzenmoyer suggested that after the legislation is refined that a One Stop Shop be scheduled to discuss this with Building/Trades, Zoning, Planning and Historic Preservation.

### **BERNHART PARK**

Ms. Hoag questioned if Mr. Beane received a response from the City Solicitor. Mr. Beane stated that he has not.

### **BCTV PROGRAM**

Mr. Beane stated that the next show is in July and requested that members think of topic ideas to be discussed at the next meeting.

### **SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE**

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that attendance has been down. She stated that the Conservancy is no longer active and that the future involvement of the Home Builders Association is uncertain. She explained that the awards dinner will be held on May 29 at 4:30 at Toscani and encouraged all to attend. She stated that Hamburg has been selected as the winner for 2013.

### **SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Beane stated that there has been much discussion and that the current focus is on curbside recycling collection for commercial establishments downtown. He explained that the establishments in the DID area have already been canvassed for their willingness to participate.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned the Opportunity House mattress recycling project. Mr. Beane stated that the project is moving forward and that a location has been identified.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Mr. Beane stated that Callie White from Liberty Environmental, who is a City resident, submitted her application today. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will begin processing the application shortly.

Mr. Beane noted his hope that the appointment process is complete by the July meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting remains scheduled for Tuesday, June 25 but will be held at Angelica Park.

The EAC decided to combine their July and August meetings and meet on Tuesday, July 30 at Bernhart Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, June 25 at 5 pm at Angelica Park.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer*  
Deputy City Clerk